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BULLETIN OF THE HISTORY OF DENTISTRY

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THE IDEAL DENTAL JOURNAL

E/ Dr. Milton Asbell has sent to the Bulletin a brief interesting summary of his conception of what a journal devoted to the history of dentistry should be. This pattern might serve as the prospectus of an ideal publication, if any such journal existed or was even seriously contemplated at the present time.

> A JOURNAL OF DENTAL HISTORY should be designed to meet the needs of the ever-increasing number of readers who are interested in the historical and humanistic aspects of dentistry. One of its principal aims should be to provide a medium for the substantial body of research in dental history and literature which is being carried on in the United States at the present time.
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> While it is intended that A JOURNAL OF DENTAL HISTORY should be authoritative and of the highest literary standard, it would not cater exclusively to the specialist. Particular emphasis would be placed on the correlation of historical studies with everyday practice and on the needs of dentists and students who wish to learn more about the historical and cultural background of their profession.
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> There should be a section of "Original Texts and Documents" in which the journal would endeavor to make available a selection from the vast store of unpublished material of dental history which exists in this country. "News, Notes and Queries," another section would provide information regarding historical congresses, celebrations, exhibitions, lectures and other activities, and this section should include "Questions and Answers" on a wide variety of historical and bibliographical topics. "Book Reviews" by recognized authorities should be another regular feature.

Most historians will not quarrel with Dr. Asbell's credo, but it will set some of us thinking as to what would be necessary in order that such an imaginary publication might be realized. What are some of the requisites that must be met before a successful journal of this sort can be undertaken?

1. The sponsors should be sure that a sufficient, continuous supply of substantial and readable contributions is available. Too often, a group of enthusiastic authors who have a number of articles on hand, which do not meet the immediate needs of any existing periodical, decide to find an outlet for their production

by establishing a new journal. The first few issues of such a journal are likely to have excellent and sufficient material for publication. But unless the field is a large one with many competent workers, it may be expected that the cumulated stock of articles will be depleted, and then the journal will have to depend on what it can get to fill its pages. Is there enough material of high standard and general interest? Is the production of historical studies great enough so that the editor will always have a considerable selection and an adequate reserve to fall back on?

2. Adequate support for such a journal is, of course, the essential requisite of publication. The present mailing list of the Bulletin of the History of Dentistry is over 200, and all requests for subscription have been met without charge. There is also a large number of persons outside this country interested in the history of dentistry.

Anything less than a journal of 64 pages issued quarterly would probably not be worth while. An edition of 1000 copies for each number could hardly be published for less than $5,000 a year.

The Bulletin of the History of Medicine, with a subscription price of $6.00 a year and a membership in the organization of about 500, costs $10,000 a year and any deficit is covered by subsidy from the Johns Hopkins University. Would it be possible to obtain a sponsor who would subsidize a journal of the history of dentistry?

EXHIBIT OF ST. APOLLONIANA

P/ Among the features of the Indiana centennial celebration last May was a colorful display of twenty-two art reproductions of St. Apollonia at the Claypool Hotel. Dr. Wayne K. Stoller arranged the exhibit.

A NEW DENTAL MUSEUM

P/ A dental department has been added to the Utrecht University Museum (The Netherlands) and was formally opened March 29, 1958. The historical collection was begun about 1877 by Dr. Th. Dentz, and now, greatly enlarged and consisting of 3500 items, is in charge of F. E. R. deMaar. The foundation for a dental museum has been made possible through the efforts of Dr. deMaar and the cooperation of the dean of the School of Dentistry, Dr. H. J. M. Scheffer, the officers of the Utrecht University Museum, and The Netherlands Government. A fuller account appears in Tijdschrift voor Tandheelkunde 65:283-285 April 1958.

DENTAL SCHOOL AT CORDOBA, ARGENTINA

/ The National University of Cordoba has issued a small volume, La Escuela de Odontologia y su Transformacion en Facultad, 1957. This book gives an account of the origins of the school in 1917, under the medical faculty; and the creation of a Facultad de Odontologia (Dental Faculty), making the school a constituent unit in the University in 1956.